

Key Concepts			
Shekinah	The dwelling or divine presence of God often shown as a cloud.	Messiah	The promised deliverer of the Jewish nation. The word means ‘anointed one’
Synagogue	A building or place of meeting for worship in the Jewish faith	Covenant	A promise or an agreement. Covenants were made between God, Abraham and Moses.
Shabbat (Sabbath)	The Jewish day of rest and seventh day of the week	Mitzvot	Actions that Jews must perform or avoid. There are 613 including the Ten Commandments
Kosher	Means ‘clean’ or ‘fit’. It describes food that is okay to eat for Jewish people.	Torah	The Jewish written law and the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible

<p><u>Jewish Marriage and Mourning Rituals</u></p> <p>Important moments in the life of a Jew are marked by special rituals and traditions. They help to show thanks to God, bring God into everyday life and increase a sense of Jewish identity and belonging. Marriage is very important in Judaism. It is given by God. It allows a couple to bond and to have a family. Mourning rituals allow Jewish families to come to terms with the grief following the death of a loved one.</p>
<p><u>Sources of Authority</u></p> <p>“A man shall therefore leave his father and mother and be united with his wife and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis</p> <p>“... you must not leave his body overnight. Be sure to bury him the same day.” Deuteronomy</p> <p>“Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights” Job</p> <p>“Jacob tore his clothes and mourned for his son many days.” Genesis</p>

Jewish marriage Ceremony	<p>The marriage ceremony begins with the reading of the ketubah (marriage contract). The ketubah outlines the grooms various responsibilities. It is a legally binding agreement. The next stage is the badeken ceremony. This is the veiling of the bride by the groom. The wedding ceremony takes place under the chuppah (canopy), a symbol of the home that the new couple will build together. Two cups of wine are used in the wedding ceremony. Wine is a symbol of joy in Jewish tradition. In Jewish law, a marriage becomes official when the groom gives an object of value to the bride. This is traditionally done with a ring. The Seven Blessings (Sheva Brachot) are now recited over the second cup of wine. A glass is now placed on the floor, and the groom shatters it with his foot. It represents the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The congregation shout "Mazel Tov". The couple are then escorted to a private ‘yichud room’ and left alone for a time. These moments symbolise their new status of living together as husband and wife.</p>
Jewish Mourning Rituals	<p>Following a Jewish person’s death, the body is washed and wrapped in a white cloth. This cloth may be the tallit (prayer shawl) that belonged to the person. The body must not be left alone and someone should stay with the body until the burial takes place. This custom comes from the Torah, which outlines that the burial must take place within 24 hours. Prior to the body being buried is a stage called ‘Aninut’ which means pre-burial mourning. During this time, the family will concentrate only on funeral arrangements and each will make a small tear in their clothes before the funerals service. The tearing of the clothes comes from the story of Jacob in the Torah. Following the burial there is a seven day mourning period known as ‘shiva’. During this time, mourners (usually the immediate family) remain at home and carry out a number of traditions such as sitting on low chairs and covering mirrors. Following ‘shiva’ there follows 30 more days of mourning. This is less intense and most family members will resume normal activities such as work. However, certain restrictions still apply such as cutting hair, shaving the beard or attending celebrations such as Jewish festivals. On the year anniversary, a candle will be lit and prayers are dedicated to the deceased.</p>

<p><u>Exam Practice</u></p> <p>b) Describe two features of a Jewish marriage ceremony (5)</p> <p>b) Describe two features of Jewish mourning rituals (5)</p>
